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of

March 12, 1987

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the meeting of March 5 regarding the Pew Scholars and the possibility of creating a historical record of their endeavors.

If I may look at the issue primarily as one of providing historians and other researchers with a valuable archive of materials, then there are two bodies of materials which should be preserved: (1) the files which the Glenmede Trust is accumulating on each Scholar, and (2) each Scholar's scientific and personal papers.

The Glenmede files will be most valuable if the staff of the Trust retains the bulk of the documents and subsequently deposits them in an archive. The main problem prior to archival deposit would probably be over-enthusiastic "weeding" by office staff. At the time of deposit there must be consideration given to how and when the records would be opened: at many archives, including ours, the papers of living persons are either closed or available with restrictions.

The scientific and personal papers of individual Scholars represent, of course, the core material of most historical research. The majority of such papers are collected rather late in an individual's life or on decease, so that the papers are often not representative of the most productive phases of a scientific career. To persuade a significant group of young scientists, such as the Pew Scholars, to retain and deposit their papers early in their career would be an outstanding contribution to the future understanding of scientific history.

I personally like the idea, discussed at the meeting, of having scientists of major stature inform the Pew Scholars of the importance of saving papers, and personally vouching for the value (pleasure?) of doing so. I believe that each Scholar who shows interest should be introduced to the mechanics of selecting and donating records, and to the significance of different types of

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records (are lab notes more important than NSF grant committee minutes ?) -- perhaps by means of a booklet (as discussed at the meeting).

I liked Rebecca Reimal's suggestion that we think of a "carrot" to interest and encourage the Scholars to deposit their records. An immediate and practical one might be that when moving to a new site (as young scholars often do) "old" records could be disposed of without losing them permanently.

All-in-all, this has the potential of being a very significant project, and I will want to hear about its progress.

Sincerely yours,



Darwin H. Stapleton
Director

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